

The Admiralty Law Section and the South Florida Chapter of the Federal Bar Association
Present: “Disaster in Paradise – *When Good Times Go Bad!*”

BIOGRAPHIES:



ROBERT L. GARDANA, P.A.

Captain Gardana is a skilled litigator, USCG Licensed Master Mariner and Proctor in Admiralty. His specialized knowledge, skill, and experience navigating cruise related accident cases, as a Florida Bar Board Certified attorney in Admiralty and Maritime Law, licensed USCG Master, Proctor in Admiralty with the Maritime Law Association of the United States, provides exceptional representation in cruise-related injury and death cases occurring anywhere in the world.

Robert L. Gardana P.A. has handled cruise injury, excursion, and Death on the High Seas cases over the past 40 years. He is board certified by the Florida Bar and litigates cruise injury cases in Federal Court on a daily basis. His expertise and practice areas includes both passenger and crew injury and death claims caused by the negligence of cruise lines, including falls overboard, assaults, slip and falls, negligent security, a passenger on passenger assaults, the crew on passenger assaults, assaults with serious physical injury, sexual assault, over-service of alcoholic beverages, medical negligence, excursion related injuries, injuries caused by cruise concessionaires, bunk related injuries, gangway and ramp injuries, stairway and tendering accidents.

Robert L. Gardana, P.A., located in Miami, Florida, home to the largest passenger port in the world, is available to handle cases against cruise lines for injuries, death, missing persons, rape, assault and excursion related injuries or death.



DANIELLE T. GAUER

Danielle Gauer represents insurance carriers, including Canadian carriers and protection and indemnity (P&I) clubs on various matters involving general liability, maritime law and transportation law.

Prior to joining Wilson Elser, Danielle served as an attorney at a national litigation firm advising clients on maritime and admiralty litigation and transactional matters, including but not limited to product liability, toxic tort, marine pollution claims, towage, salvage, new builds, maritime contract drafting, shipowner limitation actions, insurance claims coverage evaluations, marina, boatyards, seaman claims, passenger claims, marine operations and risk management. Danielle also is a licensed Canadian attorney. She completed her Canadian law degree, licensing and articling in Toronto at one of Canada's leading law firms in the areas of class actions, labor and employment law, and civil litigation.

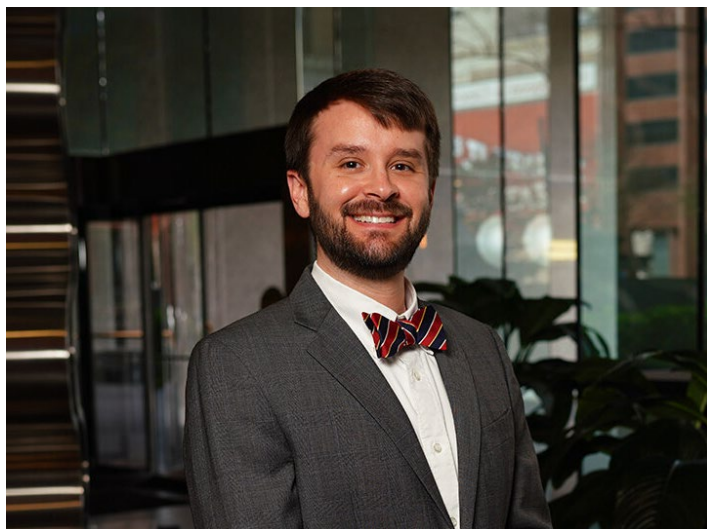


CHASE ALEXANDRA JANSSON

Chase represents international insurers, reinsurers, Lloyd's syndicates, P&I Clubs, shipowners, and charterers in a variety of maritime disputes and marine liability claims involving yachts and superyachts, passenger and crew liabilities (Jones Act), physical damage and personal injuries, marina and boatyard operations, vessel arrests and maritime attachments, collisions and marine salvage, pollution and environmental damage derived from vessel operation and navigation, marine products liability, ship repairers legal liability and marine cargo losses.

She also counsels clients on a broad range of business-related issues and disputes, including entity formation, contract negotiation and drafting, commercial transactions, complex commercial litigation and alternative dispute resolution.

Chase is admitted to practice law in Florida, New York, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Washington D.C., as well as several U.S. District Courts and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. She earned her J.D. from Boston University School of Law and her LL.M. from Trinity College Dublin.



DAVID K. SMITH

David represents vessel owners and operators in maritime matters, as well as contractors in construction and general litigation matters. David's experience includes mineral rights commercial litigation, the defense of personal injury matters, and the prosecution and defense of commercial and real estate matters, including title and boundary disputes.

He also holds an agency certification from the American Association of Ship Brokers & Agents, and has extensive experience representing and protecting vessel owner's interests during their port calls in the Mississippi River. He is well versed in both the regulatory and charter party issues owners and operators face and has served as the primary commercial representative for numerous international shipping companies during their voyages in the Lower Mississippi Tri-Port Area. While in law school, David served as an intern at the Port of New Orleans.



AARON DMISZEWICKI

Aaron is a North Carolina native with extensive experience in civil litigation and insurance coverage issues. He received his Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Miami School of Law, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Duke University, where he also received a minor in Latin and a certificate in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics.

Aaron has experience litigating and analyzing a wide variety of insurance-related issues on many of the most common types of insurance policies (both primary and excess), including general liability, directors & officers, error & omissions, equipment breakdown, automobile (both personal and commercial), and wet marine.

While in law school, Aaron served as an Articles and Comments Editor for the *University of Miami Business Law Review*, and was a member of the Eleanor R. Cristol and Judge A. Jay Cristol Bankruptcy Pro Bono Assistance Clinic, where he represented low income clients in filing bankruptcy petitioners. Aaron has won numerous academic awards, including being inducted into the prestigious Order of the Coif.

Aaron is admitted in Florida and the United States District Courts for the Southern, Middle, and Northern Districts of Florida, as well as the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.



KRISTA FOWLER ACUÑA

She has been nominated as Best Lawyers® in Admiralty and Maritime Law, consistently from 2019 through 2023, and is a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America. Krista is a highly skilled, veteran litigator representing insurance companies and insureds in state and federal court in all aspects of admiralty and maritime including defense of bodily injury and wrongful death matters, Jones Act crew disputes, property damage, salvage, pollution, product liability, insurance coverage, and maritime contract drafting and disputes. Krista's coverage experience focuses on first and third party marine policies (hull and machinery, protection & indemnity, MGL, SROLL, cargo, and inland marine), including marine excess and bumbershoot policies. Her coverage experience is expansive and includes litigated coverage disputes (declaratory judgments, breach of contract, good faith and fair dealing, and extracontractual claims) as well as coverage evaluations, opinions, and civil remedy notices and department of insurance complaints. Krista also counsels her clients on the drafting of marine insurance policy wording, warranties, purchase agreements, crew agreements, liability waivers for watersports, as well as advertising review and drafting for compliance with state and federal warranty law.

Krista has tried cases to verdict in jury trials and bench trials in Florida state court and federal courts in multiple districts of the U.S.; as well as arbitrations through the SMA and ICDR. She has also been accepted and testified as an expert witness in the field of marine insurance.

Krista represents clients in a wide range of industries, including domestic and London market insurers and private corporations in the marine, transportation, and manufacturing industries.

Krista is a sought-after speaker and author by industry and professional associations and clients in her practice areas and litigation management. She is a Certified Litigation Management Professional (CLMP)™ and has been awarded the Litigation Management Institute Certificate™.



MATTHEW A. MOELLER

Matthew's experience and practice primarily includes the representation of vessel owner and operators, contractors, and shipyards as well as other businesses in maritime, construction and commercial disputes. This experience includes the defense of Jones Act, Longshore Harbor and Worker's Compensation Act, and maritime personal injury claims, maritime contractual disputes and maritime property damage matters, as well as the representation of marine insurers in insurance coverage matters. Matthew's experience also includes the defense of insurers, hotel operators, and transportation companies in land-based personal injury actions.

Matthew represents shipyards in vessel construction and repair disputes and general and sub-contractors in breach of contract, non-payment, defective workmanship, and lien disputes. Matthew also represents businesses in actions concerning breach of contract, fraud, intentional interference with contract, unfair trade practices and trade secret violations, as well as real estate title and boundary disputes. Matthew has tried numerous cases to verdict, obtaining both bench and jury verdicts in favor of his clients.

In addition to his litigation practice, Matthew counsels maritime clients in the formation and negotiation of master service agreements, master time charter agreements, third party access and boarding agreements and vessel construction contracts. Matthew counsels other businesses in the preparation and negotiation of non-compete, non-disclosure, non-solicitation, and professional services contracts. Matthew serves as outside general counsel for numerous clients including the largest liftboat owner/operator in the Gulf of Mexico.



ALLISON E. KELLY

Allison is the current Managing Director of U.S. Maritime. Prior to this position, she served as the Senior Vice President and Licensed Florida Maritime Adjuster at USMC. She also served as the Office Manager at USMC where she established a data base for client accounts inclusive of Bordeaux, Escrow Accounts, Maintenance and Cure Payments and Loss Runs. She also helped establish Medical Management Division, inclusive of auditing and negotiating of medical bills and Case Management for crew and passenger.



OSCAR DELATORRE

Oscar has sixteen years of Forensic and eDiscovery experience. He is the Founder/CEO of Detekted, a leading provider of Digital Forensics, eDiscovery and IT Security services.



RYON L. LITTLE

Ryon Little devotes his practice to maritime law. He regularly handles the defense of personal injury claims that occur on board commercial and private vessels, including crew, longshore and passenger claims. He draws directly on his nearly 10 years of active duty service in the United States Coast Guard following his graduation from the United States Coast Guard Academy.

He also assists protection and indemnity clubs with a broad range of legal issues, including collisions, groundings, cargo damage, products liability, wreckage removal and environmental damage. In addition, Ryon works with hull insurers to investigate, evaluate, adjust and litigate their hull claims.

A portion of Ryon's practice includes regulatory compliance. He counsels and guides vessel owners and licensed mariners regarding compliance under the regulations set forth by various agencies, such as the Federal Maritime Commission and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He has experience conducting internal investigations, as well as representing clients during investigations conducted by outside agencies, including the United States Coast Guard and the State of Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation. Ryon's ten years of service to the United States Coast Guard has given him particular insight into maritime issues and regulation.